B79-0054/010(46)

46

Rough Field Notes - Misc.

He sent an elk to summon all the people. This man came to Kwox, "No, I don't want to go, there will be nothing but kwals." The elk said, "No, grouse has elsht hiyu kamata grease". Kwox did not believe & did not go. All the others went, & in the morning Kwox began to get worried, & believed. He said to a boy, for ever all the women had gone "Go & see if grouse is giving real meat". The boy returned, "Yes". Then Kwox thought a bit & began to see a plan to get out of his trouble & get the food. He went back of the house where the people ~~had~~ were feasting, lay down & cried out some words in a strange language. The people were frightened & fled. Then Kwox returned home, lay down under his blanket, & told his sisters to blow ashes over him, i.e. to simulate that he had long been in house, for the elk had told them that Kwox refused to come. Some men said, "Let's go to Kwox, he is a smart man & knows everything" so they went. Kwox shook ashes from self, sat up & asked them what they wanted - they told. Kwox asked what the voice said, they repeated. Kwox said, "Oh, Oh, Yoot means that a tena is almost here, run away into the mountains with your children. The people believed & did so. Then Kwox went to the grouse house & stuffed himself to the eyes with food, leaving scraps. But two men began to think, I wonder if Kwox

~~Stetson~~ 761

① snow pan tanks, water-logged

has been double-crossing us. So they returned stealthily to the house & saw Kwox gorging. They returned to the rest, told them of Kwox's greediness & everybody returned. Kwox saw Kwox who fled in shame home.

A little later Kwox decided to try to get some halibut. Now the only person who knew how to catch halibut was ①, an old man, who was the worms which come out of a water-logged stick as it lies at the bottom of the sea. Kwox went to his house, which was in a land under the ocean. "I have come to pay my respects to you, Ōji, & to visit you". "All right, sit down", said ①. Then ① took his line, opened a hole through the floor of his house, dropped line, & soon caught a big halibut, which he hauled up & killed. Kwox was overjoyed. The ① built a fire, cooked the fish, with stones, which he lifted into the box, & gave a feast to Kwox, who was delighted, it was the first time that Kwox had or any other man had seen a halibut cooked. Finished eating Kwox wanted to take away the pan with unmonby fish saying he would return it later. He had made up his mind to get the better of ①. Kwox took the food-box to his sisters, only saying that it was food. Next day he took the box & flew as a sawbill, not to ①'s house.

but to a point under the ocean opposite D's house. Here he built a huge fire. Then went to D's house. "Good-morning, Sir," D was not a life but Kwor wished to flatter him. "I have brought you good news, I have just seen your father, & told him where you are, he has lost you for a long time, & is overjoyed at the thought of seeing you. He is waiting by yonder fire." D said, "You have made a mistake, I have no father, I just grew up of myself." Kwor said, "hold out of it, you truly must come to see him, if you are lazy, I will pack you over." For a long time D did not want to go, "no, I've no father." Kwor said, "Please come outside, see that fire, your father is waiting there & gave me explicit instructions to get you, he will be angry if I do not succeed." so finally D agreed. Kwor was still as a sand-bird, & packed D on his back, flew up & up. Then he side-slipped a little, D cried out, "Don't do that, I am afraid." Kwor flew straight on. Arrived mid-ocean, he sidestepped, & D fell off, & down thru the water to the land below. Kwor yelled, thought D dead, but forgot he lived under the water, should have dropped on land. Kwor went swiftly back to D's house, intending to steal line, etc. but meanwhile D was walked back on the bottom land, he did not know how to swim. To ben Kwor reached the house he opened the hole in the floor & threw down the line.

765

He sang of how in the days of yore he had ~~caught~~ packed (I) on his back. Then he felt something on his line, thought it was a halibut & hauled up gleefully. It was an old water logged stick. "God damn", he said, & cast it into a corner. Then he fished again. But he did not know that (I) was inside the log. (I) came out cautiously, climbed up & plugged every hole in the roof & locked the door, but Kwox was too busy to see him. Kwox had no luck, began to swear at the halibut, "Take my hook, old crooked face, old crooked eye, you have your ass in your shoulder" & many other swear-words. The halibut heard, understood & refused to be caught, though Kwox did not know that they understood him. When (I) had finished he went out & locked the door unknown to Kwox. (I) called to the tide, "Please help", & the tide rose & came thru the floor. Kwox was in great trouble, he fluttered & swam around, but could not get out, & finally when the house was full of water he stuck his nose out thru a tiny hole. Kwox said to (I), "Please help me, I am dying, I will never do it again, I want to return to my happy life above." But (I) said, "No, you tried to rob a poor man, I refuse to help you. In a little while he ceased to speak, apparently dead. Then (I) told the tide to leave itself, he entered his house & threw out the dead Kwox.

① a ~~box obj~~ 767

① b a bhoxony

② show walls, Used for berry-gathering

Kwoo once saw a large number of ollalies growing not far from his house, so he said to his 4 sisters, "Get ready & we will go & get them." Next day they set out in a canoe. They got a great many berries, & filled the canoe. Kwoo is a greedy fellow & decided to try to drown his sisters. The canoe was in an ocean harbour round the point of which they must pass on return, so Kwoo shit on the point, & told his shit to call out "wind". Kwoo had power of making anything speak. ~~Early~~ In early dusk they returned, & as they passed the point, the shit called "wind, wind, wind, chaco!" Kwoo said, "There is great danger, you had better flee." They fled up the hills, & Kwoo ate his fill of berries, & called. One sister heard him & suggested returning in case he was in danger. When Kwoo had finished he smeared himself with juice like blood & lay down. The sisters came & looked at him & sang, "That's very funny blood that our brother has on him, it's not real blood." Kwoo replied, "No, you're mistaken." Again they sang, of his funny looking blood. "I was hurt by the wind." He again denied & they followed him. He told them to take his bones, which they did & all bones were buried at the ~~fi~~ principal ~~lagoon~~

(1) tsʃbaiʃtɬ or tkwiɬʃx
(2) Lasted 4 years, many dead.
(3) stʃkluʃ, loops.
(4) A few trout caught with hook & line.

ka' t ana was a man who always watched the sun, he knew the time of solstices etc. One winter the sun did not stop at its usual place, went far ahead. He was much worried, prophesied the end of the world & famine, called the young men to work but they laughed at him. Last summer there were plenty fish, berries etc & all laughed at him, some for 4 yrs. On the 5th came famine, the cold remained in the valley, no cold wind, the berries came to flowers, then killed by more cold. A few fish came to the river, but the water stayed clear & they could not be caught. The people were starving, only supported on porcupine & mountain-goat. A man (1) went hunting from Kumsquit, set snares (2) for goats & ~~hoard~~ lay down in a cave. He could not sleep & soon heard the goats talking in his own language, laughing at his poor workmanship. He listened. His morning he had caught nothing. He changed his snares & next night had caught a large number. (3)

781

(1) Swaik = Robson's son
(2) Means many houses
(3) Probably flood lasted for 1 month or so.